

LEADERSHIP

Session

Jim Plunk, Moderator
Tim Chapman, Clerk
Chas Emerson, Treasurer
Bob Barber
Scott Sartor
Shaun Sipe*

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman***
Chris Tingle, Secretary
Nick Manley
Robert Massey
Charlie Smith

Chris Lyons*

David Wright*

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

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Sue Tarver, Pianist

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*"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."*

2 Corinthians 4:5

1st Sunday in Lent

2.22.26

Notes

If you are new to church, the notes in this margin are a way to help you understand and follow along through each aspect of today's service. If you like, use the free space to take your own notes about anything you find interesting or thought provoking. If you have additional questions, you can talk with a church officer after the service.

Congregational Standing

Throughout the bulletin the asterisk * denotes congregation standing

We encourage you to use this bulletin during the week to reflect on what you have heard and experienced during worship. You can use the prayers, confessions, and scripture for personal worship and devotional time at home

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us for worship today. Here at Christ Covenant, we seek to celebrate God's grace through Jesus Christ, who came to give us life today and for eternity. We also seek to cultivate a safe environment for the convinced and unconvinced to hear the free offer of the gospel in Jesus Christ. Whether you are a follower of Jesus, or it has been a while since you've considered your relationship to Him, or you are exploring His claims for the first time, we are delighted to have you with us today. We would love to be able to connect with you and share with you more about the ministry of our church. We have a visitor bag for you in the lobby with a mug, coffee, pens and Dane Ortlund's book, "Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinner's and Sufferers."

Ushers: Andrew Duff & Nick Manley

A/V Assistant: Matthew Frank

Communion & Coffee: Greg & Jill Karr

Hosts: The Smith Family

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Denise Lyons, Elizabeth Mills & Charlie Plunk

Sunday School—Katie Massey

For Your Children: We welcome children to attend and participate in the corporate worship by singing, praying, and offering responses as they are able. A nursery is provided for infants through toddlers to age 4.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Be sure to sign up on our website to receive the weekly E-news which is sent every Wednesday with the latest up-to-date information.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

Sunday—February 22nd

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy

Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

Monday—February 23rd

No activities planned

Tuesday—February 24th

No activities planned

Wednesday—February 25th

6:30am—Men's bible study

6:00pm—Missions Emphasis activities

Thursday—February 26th

No activities planned

Friday—February 27th

Women's retreat

Saturday—February 28th

Women's retreat

Looking Ahead

- Community Group spring dates—3.1, 3.29, 4.12
- Spring Break—3.9-13
- Holy Week—3.29, Palm Sunday (kids sing in service); 4.2, Maundy Thursday; 4.3, Good Friday; 4.5, Easter Sunday
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt—3.22, alternate date, 3.29
- Graduate Luncheon—4.26
- RYM 2026—7.7-12

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 2.21-2.28

Will & Abbey Toberman • Elijah, Emma & Eric Vaughn

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Dick & Emily Brankstone • Tyler & Brooke Mitchell, expecting their first child • Denise Lyon’s father, Roger, hospitalized after surgery • Valerie Walden’s mom, Bonnie, recovering from a stroke in a Birmingham rehab center

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search • Officer training: elder candidates; Jared Barkley & Zack Becker; deacon candidates; Adam Clark and Michael Emerson • Helen Morgan, mourning the loss of Monte • The Plunk family, mourning the loss of Jodi’s mum, Lin • Those in our region affected by the winter storm • Vaughn family transition

OUR LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS

Please pray for these local and world missions and our missionaries.

Peru Mission (Chimbote Church Plant) • Bill Berry (Christ Redeemer in Jonesboro) • RUF: John Craft (Rhodes College), John Crosby, Spencer Sipe (University of Memphis), Justin & Carey Helms (LSU) • Jermaine Van Buren Jr., (Jackson State) • Reclaimed Ministry • Ricky Kroeger (Wycliffe Bible Translators—Mexico)

Sermon Preview

3.1.26	Missions Emphasis Week	TBD
3.8.26	Matthew 9:1-8	Forgiveness & King Jesus
3.15.26	Matthew 9:9-17	Discipleship & King Jesus
3.22.26	Matthew 9:18-26	Hope & King Jesus

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Preparing for Worship
With so many distractions vying for our attention, this is a time to listen to the prelude music, read of Vision Statement on the front cover, and get ready for the service.

Call to Worship If worship is offering all that we are to all that God is, then this call is a way to proclaim this movement, while also challenging us on what we worship daily.

Why we sing
We sing in order to remember the stories of how God has worked in our lives. Singing takes the truth of who God is and what He is doing, and applies it into our lives.

Prayer of Invocation
Is from the Latin *invocare*, meaning “to call on.” God has called us to worship—and now, in grateful response, we cry out for His presence among us.

The Lord’s Prayer
Jesus gave this example in the New Testament (Matthew 6:9-13) to show us how to pray. We use this prayer corporately each week as a reminder.

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Elder Bob Barber

LEADER: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

PEOPLE: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

LEADER: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Psalm 105:1-3

***Song of Adoration**

All People That On Earth Do Dwell #1

***Invocation** (concluded by the Lord’s Prayer)

ALL: Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confession is the time when we are honest about ourselves with each other and with God. As we admit our misplaced affections, we are called to reorder our lives. Only by being honest will the good news of grace be significant and needed.

Confession of Sin

LEADER: Let us confess our sins together:

ALL: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills and rest to our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Worship

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

Trisagion

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

LEADER: For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:3-5

ALL: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! The old has passed away, behold, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Song of Renewal

Nothing But The Blood #307

Sunday School: Adults meet in the sanctuary, youth meet in the south end, and kids in the classrooms.

Two service transition: From March 22nd through May 17th, we will offer worship services at 9am and 10:45am without Sunday school. We will go back to one service for the summer and resume this two service schedule in August. Please reach out to an elder with questions.

Women's Retreat: Our winter retreat at Camp Hopewell has been rescheduled for February 27-28. Reach out to Hillary if you have any questions!

Men's Gathering: Guys, join the men of CCC for a gathering on 3.4, 6:00pm at the Patridge's home; 2805 Magnolia Drive, Hernando.

Missions Emphasis Week: Joining us this morning is Bill Berry from Christ Redeemer in Jonesboro. Wednesday evening we'll hear from Interfaith Council on Poverty and next Sunday, Dale Ellison will preach for us. Everyone is invited to remain after service next Sunday for a potluck! Visit the member page of our website to sign up to bring a dish pass: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Wycliffe Bible Translators: A special love offering will be collected next Sunday, 3.1, in support of one of our mission partners, Ricky Kroeger from Wycliff Bible Translators in Oaxaca, Mexico helping to translate the New Testament and select Old Testament books into the Zapotec indigenous language. Ricky and his family (wife Arely, daughter Lizzie, son Robert) have recently begun their home-assignment period. This will be approximately 1 year in duration and is a time of building connections and raising support. The time on home-assignment also brings with it considerable increases to their expenses in addition to their current budget.

Community Groups: Meet at the homes of various members based on location. This is a great way to get to know more people in the church and grow together. Groups are based geographically and meet in member homes. Please see an elder to be placed in a group. Community Group spring dates: 3.1, 3.29, 4.12, 4.26.

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort are encouraging words which is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

COMMUNION GUIDELINES AND PRAYERS

Bread: Each tray contains gluten-free bread in the brown cup.

Cup: Each tray has wine in the outer rim. The pink cups in the center are filled with grape juice.

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we are gathering around the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we invite all followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this wonderful sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his church.

Parents, your children are welcome to partake, if they have been baptized and been received as a communing member of the church to which you belong. If you think your child is ready to become a member, please speak to one of the elders.

Prayer for Covenant Children (not yet a communing member)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. I now resolve in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit to seek to walk in a manner pleasing to you. Amen.

Prayer of Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

We confess our faith as an act of worship, together with Christians in all times and places. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

The term "catholic" refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, or geographic barriers.

Offertory is a time for prayerful reflection and response by considering how to be generous with your time, talents and resources. If you are new to our church, or exploring Christianity, please don't feel obligated to give. Instead, please be sure to fill out a visitors card which can be found in the lobby. Also, you can give securely on our website : <https://christcovenantms.org/online-giving/>

Doxology We sing this short hymn of praise to thank and adore our God of glory.

The Sermon is a teaching based on the passage from the reading of God's Word. The role of the sermon is to make real truths of the Gospel. It is not just an intellectual function. Rather, using the imagination, our hearts are to be affected by the text.

COMMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM

***Confession of Faith**

LEADER: We confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *Nicene Creed*

Kingdom Moment

Sabbatical

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

***Doxology** (*Children under 4 dismissed at this time*)

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God's Word

Revelation 5:1-14 (p. 967)

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade

ALL: But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

The Sermon

Rev. Bill Berry

Weep No More: Behold the Lion of the Tribe of Judah

COMMUNING WITH GOD

The Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: The Lord be with you

PEOPLE: **And with your spirit**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts

PEOPLE: **We lift them up to the Lord**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

PEOPLE: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise**

PASTOR: We need not hide ourselves from you, before whose justice no one can stand. Your mercy was proclaimed by the apostles and the prophets, and shown forth to us in Jesus Christ. You give your law to guide us, and you promise new life that we may live to serve you among our neighbors in all we do and say. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and saying...

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

PASTOR: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

PEOPLE: **Hallelujah!**

PASTOR: According to his commandment:

PEOPLE: **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Dedication

The Great Thanksgiving:

Following the pattern of Jesus, this prayer of thanksgiving reminds us this is a meal offering thanks to God for all he has done as we bring our whole selves to him with the communion of the saints.

Words of Institution: These words recorded in the synoptic gospels and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 are words from Jesus setting this meal apart from every other meal as a holy sacrament for God's people.

The Memorial Acclamation reminds us of the center of history and our lives; the death, resurrection, and return of Jesus.

The Lord's supper: God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form—uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSING

***Song of Sending**

Rock Of Ages #500

***Benediction**

PASTOR: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:22-23

ALL: Amen

***Dismissal for Missions Emphasis Week**

PASTOR: Let us go as God's children, called by Him into the Christian Community of Christ Covenant Church in Hernando, Mississippi through the saving and sanctifying grace of Jesus Christ, and being led by the Holy Spirit, we seek to heed our Lord's command to go into all the nations making disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

BOYS AND GIRLS: We confess that though we are few in number, the Spirit is present and faith is alive in our midst and that our Lord has taught us if we have even the tiniest faith as a mustard seed, we shall be able to do great things in His name;

MEN AND WOMEN: Lord, help us to rely on your promises, trust fully in your Gospel, and be obedient to your Great Commission. Send us out as those who are encouraged and ready to share your Gospel with the world.

***Gloria Patri**

The Benediction

is how we close our time of worship. It is not a prayer but rather a blessing with a charge to go beyond our church into the world carrying the hope, joy and love of the Gospel.

Gloria Patri

We have heard and witnessed God's glory. Now we leave singing His glory that others might know His glory.

Sermon Audio

If you want to listen to any archived sermons, please visit the sermon page on our website www.christcovenantms.org or on our app on your smartphone. All music used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Practical Needs and Prayer

If you have questions or would like to pray with someone, our officers can be available after the worship service, or you may call the church office and leave a message for a deacon at 662.469.9330 and someone will get in touch with you. You can also send prayer requests to office@christcovenantms.org.